

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 01 1993

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name McDonald House

other names/site number 76N-28W-29

2. Location

street & number Unnamed road, 2 mi. N. of SR 92 not for publication

city or town Winterset vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Madison code 121 zip code 50273

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David Brown 1/22/93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historical Society of Iowa
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

for Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Autumnette Lee

3/18/93

McDonald House
Name of Property

Madison County, IA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Legacy in Stone: Settlement of
Madison County, Iowa

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone

walls Limestone

roof Asphalt

other Brick Chimney

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See attached.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1875

Significant Dates

c. 1875

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

McDonald House
Name of Property

Madison County, IA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 15 | 408670 | 4578965 |
Zone Easting Northing
2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing
4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tracy A. Cunninq, with assistance from Roslea Johnson

organization _____ date 25 September 1992

street & number P. O. Box 1093 telephone 602/968-0615

city or town Tempe state Arizona zip code 85280

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mark Lillie

street & number Rural Route 4 telephone 515/462-1774

city or town Winterset state Iowa zip code 50273

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7

Page 1

McDonald House
name of property
Madison County, Iowa
county and State

Physical Description

The McDonald House, built c. 1875, is an example of a vernacular stone farm residence from the latter part of the stone building era in Madison County. It is one of several extant asymmetrical massed rectangle houses with a raised basement, and it is one of two with a centered, gable front entrance. The water table on its north gable end, which is the public facade, is the house's most notable feature; the ashlar stones have margin lines surrounding a textured finish produced by a small, round-ended tool. The plan of the house and its masonry bonding suggest that it was probably built by stone mason David Harris, and that it was probably one of the later houses he erected.

The 1 1/2 story, 3 x 1 bay, gable front house measures 23 x 23 feet, and is constructed of locally quarried limestone. The north gable front has a center bay door flanked by two windows, with another window in the gable over the door. The east and west walls each hold a single window toward the rear of the house. A "walkout" entry to the basement extends from the east wall near the south corner of the house. The south gable end has a right bay entry with a window to the left, and a window in the gable. All windows are 1/1 light replacement sash, except the two basement windows on the south gable end which are fixed 4/4 light. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney faced with concrete stands in the center of the roof ridge.

The main facade is composed of finished cut limestone blocks with exaggerated quarry facing. The remaining walls are constructed of rough-cut coursed limestone rubble interspersed with some finished cut blocks with exaggerated quarry faced finish. Masonry bond is predominately two-against-one broken bond, and grapevine joints cover the whole. Quoins and jambs have exaggerated quarry faced finish. The stone lintels and sills have margin lines and texturing like that found on the water table. Stone steps descending from the two doorways have the same margin lines and tooled faces.

Windows openings are splayed and the sashes are flush with the walls. The window reveals have been plastered, whereas most other stone houses in the area have wood faced window reveals. The doors are recessed and lined with a single wide board at the top and sides of the reveals, and the transoms have been covered with painted plywood. Moderately overhanging eaves are open, with closed rafters and unmitred soffits. A narrow, plain fascia board lies against the stonework along the eaves.

A living room occupies roughly the north half of the ground floor; a kitchen and dining area are in the southern part, with a bathroom in the southwest corner of the ground floor. The upper half-story contains two bedrooms; stairs to the bedrooms are along the east wall near the northeast corner of the house. Interior woodwork is simple and predominately oak.

The exterior integrity of the McDonald House is high, and the structure is in excellent condition. No additions are present, and the only replacements are the asphalt shingles on the roof, the front and back doors (both of which appear to predate World War II), and the modern sash windows. The brick chimney may be original.

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Section 7.8 Page 2 McDonald House
name of property
Madison County, Iowa
county and State

Two other buildings are associated with this house, both 1 story, gabled outbuildings. The garage southwest of the house is very recent, and the eavefront, drop-sided machine shed west of the house appears to be c. 1950. Both buildings are ineligible for nomination due to age, and they are not included within the boundaries of this nomination.

Historical Background and Statement of Significance

The McDonald House, probably built between 1869 and 1875, is significant under Criterion A as a good example of a vernacular stone farm house constructed after initial settlement but before the end of the stone building era in Madison County. The house falls toward the end of the stone building period, and similarly, its historical association is primarily with William S. McDonald, who came to Madison County during the Civil War. He and his wife, Barbara Combs McDonald, probably moved to this property in the early 1870s and they owned it for over fifty years. This house appears to reflect the tendency of Madison County farm families to construct stone houses relatively soon after establishing their holdings.¹

Small in size, simple in form and decoration, the McDonald House is significant under Criterion C as one of a range of stone buildings in Madison County. It is one of the more inexpensive stone houses built in the county, but its modest appearance belies a quality of workmanship. The McDonald house is also significant under Criterion C for its probable association with master craftsman David Harris. Harris was one of the few master stone masons still in business in Madison County during the 1870s, and the McDonald House exhibits several features that are characteristic of his work. These are the asymmetrical massed rectangle plan, slightly raised basement, two-against-one broken bond, and textured stone similar to that in other buildings attributed to him. With its good condition, high exterior design integrity and the fact that it displays "trademarks" of a locally significant stone mason, the McDonald House is an important contribution to Madison County's stone heritage.

The historical background of this farm residence is clouded. County atlases between 1875 and 1933 identify William S. McDonald as the owner of the property. William accumulated several hundred acres of land over the course of his lifetime, and while this farm is probably the first that he owned, it is unclear whether he resided here for all or most the fifty-plus years he owned it. Thus, the historic name of the house on this nomination form is the McDonald House rather than William S. and Barbara Combs McDonald House.

¹ Johnson, Roslea, and Daniel J. Kammerer. "Legacy in Stone: The Settlement of Madison County, Iowa," Thematic Resources Nomination, 1987.

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Section 8.9 Page 3 McDonald House
name of property
Madison County, Iowa
county and State

William S. was the son of Thomas McDonald, a Pennsylvania native who moved his family from Guernsey County, Ohio, to Madison County in 1862-1863. Thomas had seven children, six of whom were sons who eventually owned farms near their father's homestead. (Indeed, the 1879 History notes the high concentration of McDonald farms in Thomas's neighborhood in the southeastern Douglas Township as an unusual fact.) The location of the original family homestead is unknown, except that it was near the Howerdon Branch of the North River and formerly known as the Martin Baum place.² In 1869 J. J. Davies listed Thomas and his three eldest sons, Cyrus B., Joseph F. and Robert F. McDonald, as farmers and registered voters in Douglas Township. This farm is not shown on Davies map of the township, however.

William S., fourth son of Thomas McDonald, finished his schooling in Madison County in the 1860s before turning to farming. He married Barbara Ellen Combs in 1872, and by 1875 he was listed as the owner of this farm. He was a Republican and a member of the Presbyterian church, but nothing is known of his participation in local politics or community activities. He eventually became a large landholder in Douglas Twp., owning 690 acres by 1915.³ After his death in 1933, the farm remained in the family for at least 10 more years. William S. is buried in the McDonald Cemetery located less than 1/4 mile west of this property, and McDonald descendents still live along nearby roads.

Bibliography

- Atlas of Madison County, Iowa. Philadelphia: Harrison and Warner, 1875.
- Atlas of Madison County, Iowa. Knoxville, Iowa: Midland Map Company, 1908.
- Atlas of Madison County, Iowa. Winterset, Iowa: The Madisonian, 1912, 1918, 1925, 1933, 1943.
- Courthouse Records. Winterset, Iowa: Madison County Recorder's Office.
- Davies, J. J. History and Business Directory of Madison County, Iowa. Des Moines: Mills & Co., Printers & Publishers, 1869.
- History of Madison County, Iowa. Des Moines: Union Historical Co., 1879, p. 603-604.

² Mueller, Herman A., ed. History of Madison County, Iowa, and Its People. Volume 1. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1915, p. 288.

³ Mueller, Volume 2, p. 631.

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Section 9.10 Page 4 McDonald House
name of property
Madison County, Iowa
county and State

Johnson, Roslea, and Daniel J. Kammerer. "Legacy in Stone: The Settlement of Madison County." National Register of Historic Places Thematic Resources Nomination prepared for the State Historical Society of Iowa, Bureau of Historic Preservation, 4 August 1987.

Mueller, Herman A., ed. History of Madison County, Iowa, and Its People. 2 Volumes. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1915.

Switzer, Harry M., compiler. "Madison County Marriages 1849-1880." Unpublished, no date. On file in the Winterset Public Library.

Wilkins, J. A. [Atlas of] Madison County, Iowa. [No publisher.] January, 1896.

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description: the precise verbal boundary for the McDonald House is a square, 33 feet on each side and centered on the house. This area allows for a margin of 5 feet between the walls of the house and the nomination boundary.

Boundary Justification: this nomination includes only the McDonald House. All other structures around the house site are excluded from the Legacy in Stone nomination by virtue of their age and construction.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

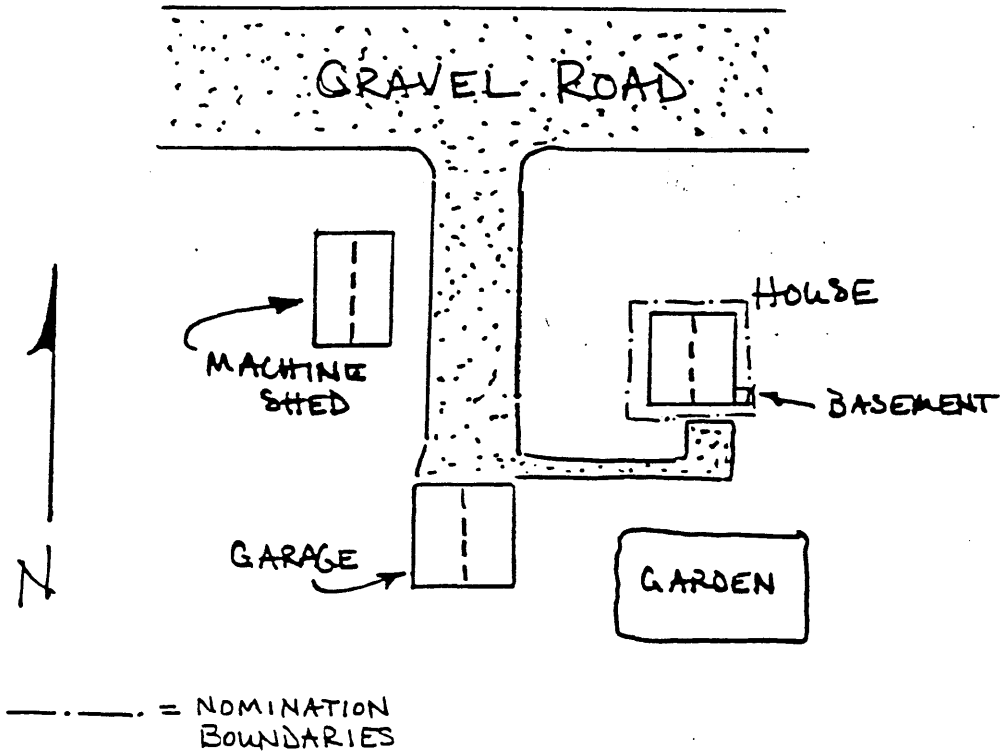
Section 10

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McDonald House
name of property
Madison County, Iowa
county and State

McDonald House
T76N-R28W, Section 29
On unnamed road, 2 miles north of SR 92
Douglas Township, 3.5 miles west of Winterset

-- Sketch Map --



NOT TO SCALE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section 10 Page 6 McDonald House
name of property
Madison County, Iowa
county and State

McDonald House
T76N-R28W, Section 29
On unnamed road, 2 miles north of SR 92
Douglas Township, 3.5 miles west of Winterset

Key to Photographs

- 1.) North (front) elevation and east side, looking SW, 3 July 1992.
New three car garage in background.
- 2.) South (rear) elevation and west side, looking NE, 3 July 1992.

All photographs taken by Tracy A. Cunning.

All original negatives on file with the Historic Preservation Bureau, State Historical Society of Iowa, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.